

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for automation of the management of required operating materials and/or supplies of an analyzer or analyzing system used to determine a parameter or a parameter group of a sample used in medical, environmental or food technology, said required operating materials being selected from the group consisting of sensors, sensor cartridges, tubes, seals and software components being and tagged as to types and maximum useful lives, and said required supplies being selected from the group consisting of cleaning media, quality control media, calibrating media, and ink cartridges being and tagged as to types, expiry dates and quantities, comprising:

(a) automatically detecting and recording said types and maximum useful lives of said required operating materials, and said types, expiry dates and quantities of said required supplies,

(b) entering a desired frequency of analysis, or automatic calculation of an estimated frequency of analysis from past frequencies of use of said analyzer or analyzing system,

(c) automatically calculating an amount of said operating materials and/or supplies required per unit of time, based on data obtained in steps (a) and (b),

(d) determining an optimum point in time for ordering more of said required operating materials and/or supplies, taking into account

the maximum useful lives of said required operating materials, the expiry dates and quantities of said required supplies, and

(e) automatically ordering said operating materials and/or supplies via remote data transmission.

2. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein said automated ordering in step (e) is conducted via an internet connection.

3. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein a unit for remote data transmission is used to provide an internet portal for information on products, software, service maintenance, and use, in the fields of medical, environmental and food technology.

4. **(Original)** A method according to claim 3, wherein said information on products, software, service, maintenance, and use, is updated each time an automatic order is placed according to step (e).

5. **(Original)** A method according to claim 1, wherein in step (a) said data of at least one operating material of a group consisting of electrochemical and optochemical sensors of said analyzer, and said data of at least one supply material of a group consisting of washing, calibrating and quality control media required for cleaning, calibration and quality control of said sensors is recorded.

6. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein for calculation of said operating materials and supplies required

per unit of time according to step (c) a desired range or desired availability of said analyzer is entered.

7. **(Original)** A method according to claim 1, wherein automatic ordering of operating materials and supplies either is proposed by said analyzer and confirmed by an user or is effected fully automatically by said analyzer after a corresponding function has been activated once.

8. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein subsequent to said automated ordering of said operating materials and supplies according to step (e) a confirmation of delivery is waited for and, if delivery is delayed, a warning is displayed on said analyzer.

9. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 8, wherein in situations of delayed delivery of said operating materials and supplies calibration and quality control cycles of said analyzer are correspondingly extended.

10. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 8, wherein in situations of delayed delivery of said operating materials and supplies calibration and quality control cycles of said analyzer are switched over to an emergency or economy program.

11. **(Original)** A method according to claim 1, wherein said data obtained in steps (a) and (b) are used to calculate service and maintenance intervals, and respective service and maintenance jobs are requested or ordered via said automatic remote data transmission.

12. **(Original)** A method according to claim 11, wherein said service and maintenance jobs are requested via an internet connection.

13. **(Original)** A method according to claim 1, wherein error messages arriving from hardware or software components of said analyzer are recorded, and respective service and maintenance jobs are requested or ordered via said automatic remote data transmission.

14. **(Original)** A method according to claim 13, wherein said service and maintenance jobs are requested via an internet connection.

15. **(Original)** A method according to claim 5, wherein an automatic order is initiated according to step (e) in response to a negative result returned by a calibrating or quality control step of said analyzer.

16. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 2, wherein a user is offered a help function via said internet connection, as well as access to user groups, a user center, and electronic information media.

17. **(Original)** A method according to claim 2, wherein said internet connection is used for remote repair of hardware or software components of said analyzer.

18. **(Original)** A method according to claim 1, wherein said data collected automatically by said analyzer in steps (a) to (c) are used to analyze consumer behavior and/or calculate effective costs for each analysis, and wherein demand-optimized analyzers or analyzing systems

as well as cost-optimized service and maintenance packages are offered on the basis of this information.

19.-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) An automation process for the management of required operating materials and supplies of an analyzer or analyzing system used to determine a parameter or a parameter group of a sample used in medical, environmental or food technology, said required operating materials being selected from the group consisting of sensors, sensor cartridges, tubes, seals and software components being and tagged as to types and maximum useful lives, and said required supplies being selected from the group consisting of cleaning media, quality control media, calibrating media, and ink cartridges being and tagged as to types, expiry dates and quantities, comprising:

(a) automatically detecting and recording said types and maximum useful lives of said required operating materials and said types, expiry dates and quantities of said required supplies,

(b) entering a desired frequency of analysis, or automatic calculation of an estimated frequency of analysis from past frequencies of use of said analyzer or analyzing system,

(c) automatically calculating an amount of said operating materials and supplies required per unit of time, based on data obtained in steps (a) and (b),

(d) determining an optimum point in time for ordering more of said required operating materials and supplies, taking into account the maximum useful lives of said required operating material, the expiry dates and quantities of said required supplies, and

(e) automatically ordering said operating materials and supplies via a device for remote data transmission, where the ordering is proposed by the analyzer and confirmed by a user, or is effected fully automatically by the analyzer after a corresponding function has been activated once.

32. **(Canceled).**